

Application Number 10/788,594
Amendment in response to Office Action mailed March 9, 2006

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated March 9, 2006. Applicants have amended claim 17 to address a minor informality. The change to claim 17 is unrelated to patentability. Claims 1-20 remain pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 17-20 are allowable in their present form, and objected to claims 4, 6, and 9 as including subject matter that would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Liu et al. (US 6,567,273) (hereafter Liu); rejected claims 8 and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu in view of Tu (US 6,808,400); and rejected claims 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu in view of Kunz et al. (US 6,542,358).

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has overlooked at least one very important distinction between the applied prior art and Applicants' claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the current rejections. The applied references fail to disclose or suggest the inventions defined by Applicants' claims, and provide no teaching that would have suggested the desirability of modification to arrive at the claimed invention.

All pending claims require a shieldless tab that is extendable from a host connector housing. Contrary to the Examiner's analysis in the Office Action, Liu fails to disclose or suggest this feature.

While Liu discloses a USB plug 102 that can be extended from memory card 100, USB plug 102 of Liu includes the conventional shield. In contrast to a conventional USB plug that includes a shield, the current claims require the host connector to comprise a shieldless tab that is extendable from a host connector housing.

Paragraph [0008] of Applicants' disclosure essentially summarizes this distinction between the claimed invention and conventional USB plug, like that of Liu. Paragraph [0008] of Applicants' disclosure provides:

In order to conform the memory card form factor to that of a given standard, the shieldless tab may be an altered version of a conventional host connector interface. For example, the host connector may conform to a Universal Serial Bus (USB) standard or a Universal Serial Bus 2 (USB2) standard, and the shieldless tab may comprise a USB compatible tab without an electrical shield. The elimination of the shield substantially

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reduces the thickness of the host connector on the memory card and ensures that the host connector does not define a thickness larger than the memory card.

In view of this distinction between the current claims and Liu, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Moreover, none of the secondary references cited by the Examiner provides any teaching that would remedy this deficiency of Liu with respect to the current claims. The Tu reference describes a device that makes use of a conventional USB connector that includes a shield, and the Kunz reference describes a "PC" card that does not appear to include any type of host connector, much less a shieldless tab that is extendable from a host connector housing.

In view of the distinction addressed above between the current claims and the applied prior art, Applicants reserve further comment at this time on any other features of the independent or dependent claims. However, Applicants do not necessarily acquiesce in any of the rejections or the Examiner interpretations of the applied references.

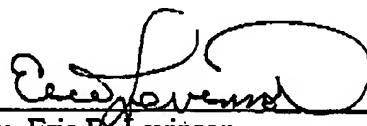
All claims in this application are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 09-0069. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney to discuss this application.

Date:

By:

6/1/06

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